



**Mark Your Calendar Now to Attend  
A Regional Listening Forum  
for Minority Business Entrepreneurs and Networking  
Opportunities with National, Regional and State Firms**

*Sponsored by*

**The U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of Rural Development  
and  
The U. S. Department of Commerce  
Minority Business Development Agency**

**with special assistance from  
The Regional Development Corporation  
and the New Mexico Economic Development Department**

**Tuesday, June 21, 2005  
9:00 a.m.**

**The Albuquerque Convention Center  
West Complex Ballrooms A-B-C  
401 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW  
Albuquerque, New Mexico**

**Listening Forum Information**

This forum is the second of three listening sessions that are being conducted across the United States. The Listening Forum is designed to elicit recommendations from local leaders and business owners on ways to improve the delivery of USDA's business programs to **minority entrepreneurs**. Guests attending the forum will get to offer their suggestions on ways to improve minority access to USDA Rural Development's lending and other business programs. Also participating in the forums will be representatives from other federal agencies dedicated to increasing capital access to support new and existing business ventures.

The geographic coverage area includes: Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Wyoming.

**Meeting Facility and Host City**

The Listening Forum will be held at:  
The Albuquerque Convention Center - West Complex  
401 2nd Street NW  
Albuquerque, NM  
Phone: 800-733-9918  
Fax: 505-848-1176

For copies of maps, driving directions and other tourist information for the City of Albuquerque, please visit the Albuquerque Convention and Visitors Bureau's website at: <http://www.abqcvb.org/>.

## Lunch

**LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.** There will be a Keynote Speaker during the luncheon.

## Registration

Registration is FREE and open to the public. You may register for this event by mail, phone, fax, or online. If you would like a hard copy of the invitation packet, please contact:

Celina Conger  
USDA Rural Development  
6200 Jefferson NE Room 255  
Albuquerque, NM 87109  
Phone: 505-761-4975, TDD: 505-761-4938, Fax: 505-761-4976  
Email: [celina.conger@nm.usda.gov](mailto:celina.conger@nm.usda.gov)

**Online registration ends June 14, 2005. Late registration will be available from 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. on the day of the forum.** Please note that seating is limited to the first 400 participants so if you are interested in attending please register as soon as possible.

## Public Speaker Information

**Speakers must pre-register to reserve time for a public statement.** To ensure that as many individuals as possible have an opportunity to participate, we must ask that speakers pre-register and limit their oral statement to 5 minutes. We are also asking that speakers submit five copies of their remarks so their comments can be provided to the official recorder and panelists. There are no restrictions on written comments submitted for the record. All comments, written or oral, will be made a part of the record and will receive a response.

## Agency Expo

Following the listening forum and lunch, there will be an "Agency Expo" from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. During this time, business development staff from USDA Rural Development, MBDA, and other participating state and federal agencies and business technical assistance providers will be available to provide information, answer questions, and provide hands-on guidance about current opportunities available to minority-owned rural businesses

If your organization is interested in exhibiting at the Expo, please request an Exhibitor's Packet from:

Frances Padilla  
USDA Rural Development  
6200 Jefferson NE Room 255  
Albuquerque, NM 87109  
Phone: 505-761-4985, TDD: 505-761-4938, Fax: 505-761-4976  
Email: [frances.padilla@nm.usda.gov](mailto:frances.padilla@nm.usda.gov)

Space is limited. Exhibits will be assigned on a First Come-First Served basis.

## Airport

The Albuquerque International Sunport is approximately 4 miles from the Convention Center in downtown Albuquerque. It is located at 2200 Sunport Blvd. SE Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106. Driving Directions are as follows:

**From the north:** Interstate 25 south to the Sunport Blvd. exit (#221); east on Sunport to the front of the terminal. Signage directs motorists to arrival and departure level roadways and to short and long term, on-airport parking.

**From the south:** Interstate 25 north to the Gibson Blvd. exit (#222A); east on Gibson to Yale Blvd. Turn south on Yale Blvd. Signage directs motorists to arrival and departure level roadways and to short and long term, on-airport



## **Ground Transportation**

Ground Transportation from airport to property include shuttle, taxi or rental car.

## **Hotels**

Please note when making hotel reservations mention you will be attending the USDA Listening Session for Minority Business Conference

### **Double Tree Hotel - Minority Business Listening Event Headquarters**

505-247-3344

201 Marquette NW

Alb. NM 87102

- \$68.00 plus tax per night, if reserved by Tuesday, June 14, 2005
- 1 Complimentary breakfast
- 2 drink tickets
- Free high speed internet
- Direct access to Convention Center

Other hotels nearby are:

### **Hyatt**

330 Tijeras NW

Alb. NM 87102

505-842-1234

Government rate \$68.00 plus tax non government rate \$199.00 plus tax

### **La Posada**

125 2<sup>nd</sup> St. NW

Albuquerque, NM 87102

242-9090

Government rate \$68.00 plus tax non government rate \$79.95 plus tax

### **Plaza Inn**

900 Medial Arts Avenue NE

243-5693

\$65.00 single or double occupancy plus tax

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